

Message Text

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70

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 NEA-09 SCS-03 SCA-01

L-02 /041 W
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R 141400Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1375
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 1765

FOR S/R:ORM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF PFOR CVIS GR CY PO VS
SUBJECT: SAFEHAVEN IN GREECE FOR REFUGEE ASYLUM-SEEKERS

REF: A. GENEVA 2787 DATED MAY 3, 1974
B. ATHENS 2742 DATED MAY 8, 1974
C. STATE 101221 DATED MAY 15, 1974
D. GENEVA 3578 DATED JUNE 6, 1974
E. STATE 051797

1. IN LATE MAY 1974 AT MISSION'S URGING, ICEM IN CONJUNCTION
UNHCR HAD FAVORABLE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GREEK
AUTHORITIES ON USE LAVRION REFUGEE AND RESETTLEMENT CENTER
AS SAFEHAVEN FOR INDIVIDUAL ASYLUM-SEEKERS AROUND WORLD
REQUIRING THIRD COUNTRY FOR IMMIGRATION PROCESSING. AS
RESULT SUBSEQUENT CHANGES IN GREEK GOVERNMENT MATTER
REMAINED ON BACK BURNER DURING BALANCE 1974.

2. EARLY THIS YEAR MISSION REQUESTED ICEM TO WATCH FOR
SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE MATTER WITH GREEK AUTHORITIES.
ICEM NOW INFORMS THAT THEY HAVE HAD PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH
GOG'S NEW HEAD OF NATIONAL SECURITY WHO REPORTEDLY HAS
SHOWN SYMPATHY ON REFUGEE MATTERS. HOWEVER, VIEW FACT
LAVRION CENTER PRESENTLY FILLED TO CAPACITY AND SOME 40
REFUGEES HOUSED IN HOTELS, ICEM UNDERSTANDABLY NOT
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PURSUING SAFEHAVEN PROPOSAL FOR TIME BEING.

3. ICEM BELIEVES, AND MISSION (RMRC) SHARES THEIR BELIEF, THAT ICEM'S CHANCES OF SECURING GOG AGREEMENT TO SAFE-HAVEN PROPOSAL WOULD BE MUCH ENHANCED IF THEY COULD INFORM GOG OF USRP'S WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE \$30,000 TOWARD RENOVATION OF ANNEX TO LAVRION CENTER WHICH GREEK AUTHORITIES HAVE PROPOSED AND WHICH WOULD INCREASE CENTER'S CAPACITY. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, MISSION INCLUDED \$30,000 FOR THIS PURPOSE IN OUR USRP REGULAR PROGRAM SUBMISSION FOR CY 1975. FYI: UNHCR PREPARED CONTRIBUTE \$10,000 TOWARD THIS RENOVATION PROJECT.

4. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP WHETHER \$30,000 CAN BE COMMITTED FOR THIS PURPOSE IN ORDER THAT ICEM AND UNHCR MIGHT PURSUE MATTER. DALE

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Message Attributes

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